The Marker Lamp

Volume 60 Number 3 Summer 2014

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The Marker Lamp

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The editorial policy of The Marker Lamp, the official publication of The Lone Star Region, shall be to contribute, wherever possible, to the promotion, growth and understanding of the hobby of Model Railroading, within the confines of good taste and responsibility. The Marker Lamp is published once each quarter by and for the members of The Lone Star Region of The National Model Railroad Association. Articles appearing in The Marker Lamp are the opinions of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the position or policies of the officers or membership of The Lone Star Region or The National Model Railroad Association.

Address all correspondence, news, photos and drawings to the editor. All material will be gladly accepted and will be used depending on the availability of space and suitability of material. None will be returned unless a stamped, self-addressed envelope is provided. Correspondence relating to Pike Ads and Dealer Ads should be addressed to Donna Orr, 2625 Rolling Meadows Dr., Rockwall, TX 75087 (972) 722-4769 dlo-rls@sbcglobal.net

Cover photo) by Riley Triggs
A view of the
AustNTrak display at the
2014 Bluebonnet Limited convention

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President's Message

by Steve Barkley, MMR

Jack Merkel, MMR receiving his Master Model Railroader plaque from Steve Barkley, MMR during the LSR convention banquet

About 200 of us gathered at Round Rock for the 2014 Lone Star Region convention. We had a great time! The convention chairman, Jack Merkel, MMR and his crew did an outstanding job in hosting this year's annual convention. Thank you all!

The contest room this year had 96 entries. The models ranged from a bridge that was over 6 feet long, in HO scale, to N scale models that were less than 6 inches long. The clinics were all well prepared and interesting. A number of local modelers hosted operating sessions and others opened their layouts for tours.

Be sure to read the report on the convention in this issue of The Marker Lamp. If you could not attend this year, please make plans to come to Beaumont next July.

November is National Model Railroad Month

This November many of us will have our layouts open for visitation by the public and other modelers. Other modelers will host operating sessions. These are some lessons that I have learned over the years to make these events fun and trouble free for you and your guests.

1. At least a month before you host an operating session or open house, run your layout. Invite your friends over to just run trains and help you stress test the layout. Remember Murphy's Law. While you may not find or recognize a problem, Murphy loves company and will show up when your friends are present.

There is a logical reason for this. More operators running trains create more opportunities for trains to derail, switch machines to self-destruct, DCC to stop working, and locomotives to lose their DCC minds. You would rather find problems when you have time to fix them than the day or morning before you welcome visitors.

2. Clean and de-clutter your train room before the event. A clean and organized train room gives a better impression than one that is messy and disorganized. Remember, for open houses you will be welcoming families. As I learned in school, "Neatness Counts!"

3. If you have a Thomas the Tank Engine, run it when small children are present. They will love it!

4. Make a restroom available.

5. Have coffee, water, and light snacks available. Holiday cookies are always appropriate. Visitors like this!

6. If possible, let visiting children run a train. My HO layout is DCC and I run it on the N scale voltage setting. On this setting, trains do not speed off the track. The children that have visited my layout over the years have had a blast running a train, blowing the whistle, and ringing the bell. Of course they quickly learn how to turn on the bell but do not realize that it can be turned off.

7. Have step stools for small children to stand on so they can see the train.

8. Use only your best running, most reliable motive power. Test run your chosen engines several times during the week prior to your event. Visitors will enjoy watching trains run and you will be spared the stress of trying to find an operable locomotive.

9. Ask a friend or two to help run the layout during open houses. This will free you up to interact with visitors and answer questions.

10. Have NMRA membership material available. The six month membership for $10.00 is a real bargain. Open houses are a great time to "sell" the NMRA and LSR.

11. Have a guest register for visitors to sign.

12. Some visitors may bring a locomotive that they would like to try running on your layout. Be very wary of this! Hopefully you have selected your best running engines to show off your smooth running layout. A visiting engine does not normally play well!

13. Most visitors to open houses just want to see trains run. They are not interested in watching operating sessions with lots of industrial switching.

14. If an engine or car acts up, pull it and replace it with one that operates. You will have plenty of time to fix problems later.

15. If you use DCC, have lots of extra batteries for your throttles. If you use rechargeable batteries, buy some regular batteries for backup.

16. Have a sign in your yard to mark your house. The San Jacinto Club in Houston provides members with railroad cross bucks for their front yards.

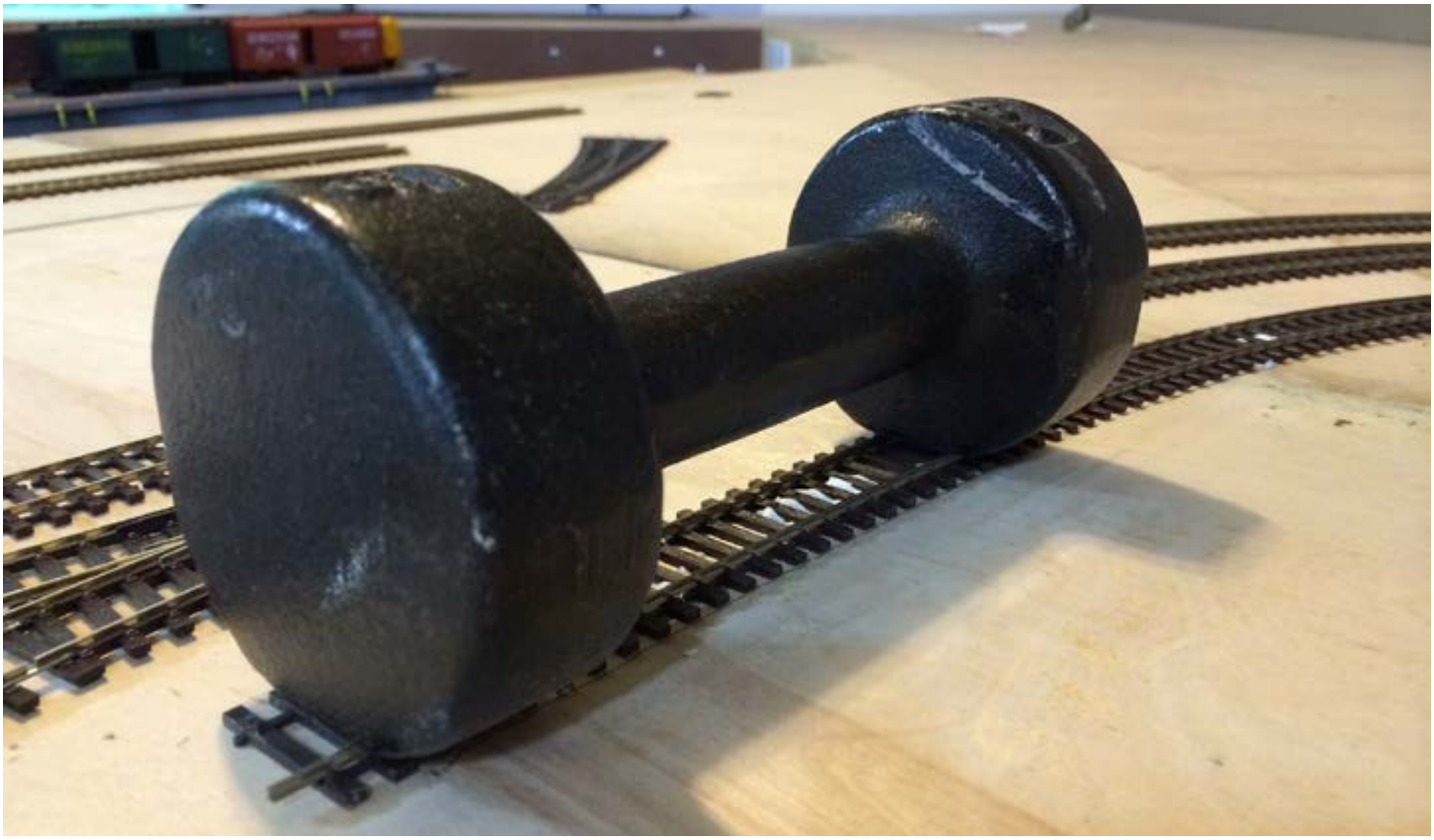
17. Maintain your sense of humor and have fun! Something will probably go wrong. Murphy will show up. However, a day spent running trains with friends and visitors is always a good day.

18. Finally, the day prior to your open house test run your layout using the trains you plan to use!

Remember, Model Railroading is Fun!

Tools

by Riley Triggs



Anything can be a tool to improve your work.

Summer is a great time to do some indoor modeling in Texas, and I've been hard at work building bench work and laying track for my Port of New York Railroad. I have really enjoyed the large scale sawing and hammering, but I am ready to move on to operating and finer building at model scale.

This issue of the *ML* is also stirring me as I look forward to getting to work on the "real" model railroading - structures, cars, locomotives, scenery, etc. As I was reading through the article by new Achievement Program Chair Duane Richardson, I was especially taken with the advice that outgoing chair Al Boos gave him about participating in the program. Al said, "It WILL make you a better modeler." I really appreciate the idea of using the structure and support of the Achievement Program to improve one's modeling efforts versus doing it for a certificate.

As with most things, we often lose sight of the value of what we are doing because we get caught up in hoop jumping. Al's take makes me not only want to participate in the program, but also to really enjoy the process and use it as a tool rather than a hoop.

Part of the process is about having my work judged, and there are several changes going on with the contests being implemented by Chuck Lind, and Loren Neufeld, Contest Co-chairs and Virginia Freitag, Non-rail chair. We've got the new forms and contests in this issue so that you (and me) can start planning for next year's convention in Beaumont.

I hope that you are finding new tools to improve your own modeling - I am looking forward to using mine.

Riley

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Up The Tracks

By Bill Dryden NMRA & LSR Life Member

Here are upcoming events within the LSR of which I am aware. I will provide all the information YOU send me, or I can glean from other publications, websites, etc., for these events. Additional information may be available through the NMRA Scale Rails and/or various trade magazines or various websites. Also, note that all show times and dates are at the discretion of the sponsoring organization and are subject to change. Please forward any and all information about upcoming events or activities in your area, club, etc., to me via e-mail at bdr149@airmail.net. Column submission deadlines are the 15th of January, April, July and October; publication of the Marker Lamp is the middle of the following month.

Lone Star Region 64th Annual Convention (2015)
The Lone Star Region NMRA 64th Annual Convention will be held in Beaumont – June 22 – 25, 2015.
Check the LSR website http://www.lonestarregion.com/content/convention-info
Come all!!
PARTICIPATE!!!

RECURRING EVENTS AND MEETINGS

LSR Division 3 - Northeast Texas Division - Garland
The Trinity River Division meets on the Second Saturday of every month at the South Branch of the Garland Library. Occasionally the day or branch changes due to scheduling conflicts so pay close attention to the e-mail meeting notices that go out a week before the meeting. If you would like to be added to the e-mail list contact Jerry Hoverson at JHoverson@tx.rr.com.

Alamo Model Railroad Engineers - San Antonio
The Alamo Model Railroad Engineers meets the 2nd Friday of the month at 7:30 p.m. in the Zucht Building at the Texas Transportation Museum, 11791 Wetmore Rd., San Antonio, TX. For more information call Peter Shavney (210) 317-3661 or Gene Turner (210) 355-2777; or visit the web site www.alamomodelrailroadengineers.com.

Houston Area Live Steamers
HALS has over 9,000 feet of track for you to enjoy and ride on most any Saturday of the year. Someone is usually there every Saturday with special run, operations, waybills/timetable, work and fun run days scheduled throughout the year. Our public run days are the third Saturday of the month March through November. Come see our 2,500 foot expansion in Phase 4. Model Railroaders (any scale) are welcome to attend most any time. Check our web site out at www.hals.org for schedule of events or e-mail Rick White rick.white.jr@gmail.com for more information.

North Texas Council of Railroad Clubs – Irving
The North Texas Council of Railroad Clubs (NTC) meets the third Tuesday of the month. Visit the website www.dfwtrainshows.com for more information about the NTC, its meeting site or member clubs.

Texas Western Model Railroad Club
The Texas Western Model Railroad Club meets for its business meeting, every first Thursday of the month at 7:00 PM. The Club is located at 6808 Forest Hills Drive, Forest Hills, TX 76140. For more information: (682) 587-2092 or www.twmrc.org or email cao@twmrc.org.

EVENTS AND SHOWS

September

6th – 7th Big Texas Train Show. Sat. 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Sun. 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Adults (17 and older) $9.00, 16 and under, Scouts in uniform Free. George R. Brown Convention Center, 1001 Avenida De Las Americas, Houston, TX. For more information, email: info@bigtexastrainshow.com

13th Lone Star Division Gulf Coast Chapter/Train Collectors Association Train Show & Swap Meet. Sat. 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Adults $6.00, Family $9.00, 12 & under free. Cypress Creek Christian Community Center, 6823 Cypresswood Dr., Spring, TX. For more information: contact Carl Olsen (281) 277-7630 or www.tca-gulfcoastchapter.org.

17th Lone Star Division/Train Collectors Association Train Show & Meet. Sat. 9:00 a.m. Holiday Inn Express, 700 Central Parkway East, Plano, TX. For more information: contact Pat Halpin, (210) 661-4238 or pathalpin@aol.com

19th – 20th 32nd Annual Temple Model Train Show. Sat. 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Sun. 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Adults $6.00, Children 12 and under free with adult, discount for seniors and active duty military and dependents. Frank Mayborn Convention Center, 3303 N. 3rd Street, Temple, TX. For more information: www.centramod.com.

October

4th – 5th Galveston Railroad Museum 2014 Train Show. For more information: http://www.galvestonrrmuseum.com/

4th – 5th Alamo Model Railroad Engineers 2014 San Antonio Train Show; Sat. 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Sun. 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.; Adults $11, Children $6 (10-17). Expo Hall A at the Freeman Coliseum, 3201 E. Houston St., San Antonio TX. For more information, contact Ron Sandoval at (210) 559-3072, or e-mail 2014SanAntonioTrainShow@satx.rr.com.

11th – 12th First Annual Texas Western Train Show. Sat. 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Sun. 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Adults $6, Kids under 12 Free. Forest Hill Civic and Convention Center, 6901 Wichita Street, Forest Hill, TX. For more information: (682) 587-2092 or www.twtrainshow.com or email cao@twmrc.org.

24th – 25th Southwest O Scale Meet. Fort Worth Academy, 7301 Dutch Branch Road, Fort Worth, TX. For more information, contact Michael Ross (817) 346-3416 or Mike Walter (817) 346-1644 or http://www.oscalesw.com/

November

1st Lone Star Division/Train Collectors Association Train Show & Meet. Sat. 8:00 a.m. 1st Baptist Church Gym, 325 E. Pine, Ponchatoula, LA. For more information: contact Pat Halpin, (210) 661-4238 or pathalpin@aol.com

8th – 9th Ft. Worth Train Show. Sat. 10 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Sun. 10 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Adults $8, Children 12 and under Free. Amon Carter Exhibit Hall at the Will Rogers Coliseum, 3401 W Lancaster Ave., Fort Worth, TX. For more information, visit http://www.dfwtrainshows.com.

15th – 16th 6th Annual Fall Train Show. Sat. 10 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Sun. 10 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Adults $7 (18 – up), Children $2 (5 – 17). New Braunfels Civic Center, 375 S. Castell Ave., New Braunfels, TX. For more information call Jim Edmondson (830) 629-2071 or JEdmondson@satx.rr.com

January 2015

17th – 18th Dallas Area Train Show. Sat. 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Sun. 10:00 am to 4:00 p.m. Adults $8, Children 12 and under Free. Plano Centre; 2000 East Spring Creek Parkway; Plano, TX. For more information, visit http://www.dfwtrainshows.com.

Please consider our deadlines for submitals and publications to allow adequate lead time to correctly announce your event – Column submission deadlines are the 15th of January, April, July and October; publication of the Marker Lamp is the middle of the following month.

nmra.org

LONE STAR NATIONAL MODEL RAILROAD ASSOCIATION REGION

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Color

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Pike ads are $8 per year and dealer ads are $20 per year.

Checks should be made out to:
LSR NMRA

Then send to:
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2625 Rolling Meadows Dr.
Rockwall, TX 75087

Ads can then be sent as a JPG file attached to an email to:
rileytriggs@gmail.com

Hobos North
(Part 1)

by Richard Day

Lights along the boarding platform break the summer night as I ease my car into a space next to the depot. A handful of passengers can be seen waiting for tonight's arrival of *The Eagle*. By summer of 1969 only four short years away *The Eagle* will make its last run and passengers will no longer board the trains at Longview. Mack and I lock the car and make our way across the passenger platforms and into the darkness of the rail yard. This Friday night our plan is to depart from Longview by train, but not in the comfort of a coach seat or sleeper. Tonight we are going to experience the life of a hobo by boarding a freight train heading north to St. Louis.

Many times I have watched the nightly arrival and departure of *The Eagle*, and I have learned from these experiences that a north bound freight normally arrives ahead of *The Eagle* and is held by the dispatcher in the railroad yard until after *The Eagle* departs. If this is true tonight we will have the opportunity to execute our carefully crafted plan of locating an empty freight car in order to be on board when the train departs to follow *The Eagle* north. In the shadows of the rail yard we hear the sound of a locomotive horn announcing the arrival of a north bound freight. Our plan is falling into place as we survey the train cars rolling by until the ideal car for our use is spotted. Squealing brakes bring the train to a stop and in the darkness of the yard we climb aboard our car. We are fortunate tonight as we select an empty baggage car that is no longer needed by the railroad and is in route to a scrap dealer. I tell Mack that this car will ride nicely and we have the benefit of two windowed doors on each side. As we make ourselves comfortable *The Eagle* arrives and the ritual of passengers boarding can be seen from our car door. Shortly *The Eagle* leaves and I tell Mack it will not be long before we are on our way.

The sudden rattling jolt takes us by surprise as the locomotives have taken up the slack and our car begins moving. The realization that we are now committed slows our conversation. My watch shows 9:45 PM as the train leaves Longview yard behind and gains speed on the main line. East Texas dust and grit blow through the open doors of our car and the rumbling sounds of the train drown conversation. Soon the railroad parallels US highway 80 and we look out to see travelers in their automobiles making their way along side us. Riding up and down the East Texas hills we experience what railroaders call slack action. Couplers that hold rail cars together have some "give" in them and this causes slack action. Though the give in each coupler may be only a half inch, in a train of a hundred cars it adds up to several feet. So as the locomotives pull the train up the hill the slack is pulled out and as the train starts down the hill gravity pushes the rear cars toward the locomotives and the slack runs in. One can hear the *thump, thump, thump,* as slack affects each car. Quite quickly we learn to listen as the thumps get louder and to be holding on to something. Otherwise we find ourselves no longer standing, but on our backsides sliding along the floor of the car.

Passing through Marshall we see the car inspectors with their bright lights looking at each car to make sure there are no problems. Still standing at Jefferson we see one of the last Texas and Pacific Railway water tanks; a reminder of the steam locomotive era. Sometime after midnight the train slows and begins to make its way into the depths of the Texarkana rail yard. Coming to a stop the midnight darkness is broken only by tall pole lights in the distance. Through the dusty windows of our car doors all we can see is a field of dark freight cars. An eerie quietness sets in punctuated by the occasional distant clang of cars being coupled and the hiss of air in the train brake. Mack and I talk in whispers and wonder how long we will be here, how far we will travel, and can we get back home by Saturday night. Being home by Saturday night is important as our parents expect us to be in church on Sunday morning. Our preparations included stashing money in our shoes should we get desperate and need to purchase a passenger train ticket to get home. I tell Mack that the train crew changes in Texarkana as this is where we leave the Texas and Pacific Railway and enter the Missouri Pacific Railroad.

A sudden rattling sound of a door opening on the opposite side of the car gets our attention. In the dim light we see a figure entering our car. As the intruder climbs in he spots us and stops briefly. In a gruff voice he states "you boys don't mind if I share your car?" As I recall neither of us said anything; perhaps we unconsciously nodded our acceptance. With a jolt the train begins moving. Hobo Sam settles down in one end of the car; Mack and I in the other end.

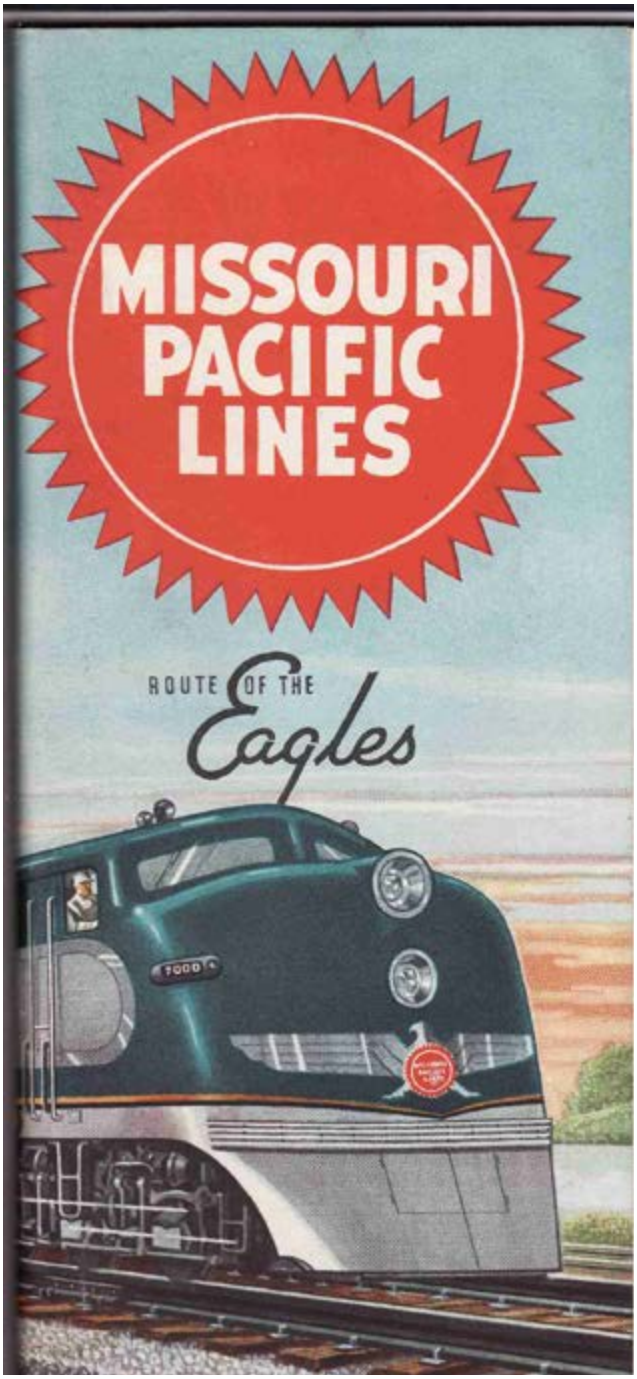
Throughout the night our train crawls across the hills of Arkansas. The best sleep comes when we pull into a siding and wait for another train to pass. Sleeping while moving is almost impossible as we wait for the *thump, thump, thump* of the slack action to reach our car and then with a loud thump we slide backward along the floor. This is followed by the slack running in and the resulting slide forward along the floor. Finally I give up trying to sleep and just sit looking out the door at the moonlit countryside.

At sunrise Mack and I are standing in the door watching as the outskirts of Little Rock, Arkansas slide by. Hobo Sam who has not spoken all night joins us at the door and asks, "You boys got any money for breakfast". I have always wondered if he was going to offer to buy us breakfast or if he was looking to us for a handout. Mack and I move to the other door as the train rattles across the Arkansas River bridge. In the distance the state capitol dome glows gold in early morning sun.

I tell Mack it is time to part company with Sam. He agrees. Moving slowly now the train is entering the North Little Rock yard so we decide to jump from our car. I jump first and although our speed is less than 15 mph I forget to "hit the ground running". I go face down into the rock ballast of the roadbed. Fortunately my hands and arms break the fall so I only end up with scratched hands and forearms. Perhaps Mack saw my face down exit or perhaps he just knew better, but whatever the reason he manages to jump and remain upright.

We never saw hobo Sam again.

(to be continued)



Model railroading tip

Liquid Nails lives up to its name

Text and photo by Howard Way

New Haven H16-44 sitting on the new wye track.

This past weekend I laid the track for a new turning wye near my main passenger depot as found on the GCSF (Gulf, Colorado and Santa Fe Railway). I used latex Liquid Nails to secure the track to the roadbed. After spending a few hours soldering feed wires and laying track, I turned on the DCC system (Digitrax) to test run a couple New Haven H16-44's while the new track set up. As soon as I flipped the power switch, I heard the five beeps of death (short circuit) - crap!

Although I'm pretty good about not lying pliers on the track, I walked the layout to see if there were any tools or derailed rolling stock to cause the short. Nope, no fouled track or derailed rolling stock. I then checked to see if the power switch to the locomotive service tracks had accidentally been turned on. Nope, not that either. With no obvious cause for the short, I started checking for odd things that had caused shorts in the past.

I took my QSI-Titan equipped VO 1000 off the track, and moved a string of express reefers off a turnout just in case and flipped the power switch on the command unit - five beeps of death again. Double Crap. Although I hadn't tied the feeder wires for the new track into the bus, I took a meter to ensure that nothing was bridging the rail gaps on the new wye - nope, not that either. Triple crap.

By this time I figured the Model Railroad Gods were upset with me for some reason, and that some sort of sacrifice might be required to get back in their good graces. With no live chicken handy and Lori making it clear that she wouldn't look kindly on my using her Cocker Spaniel for the ritual, I did the only other thing possible - I jumped on my Harley and went for a ride.

Several hours later it's late at night and I'm in the living room watching a movie - and the damned short is still weighing on my mind. So I walk into the train room during a commercial break and flip the power switch on the command station on again - all clear!

Apparently, latex Liquid nails is conductive when wet - which kinda makes sense. The Liquid Nails must have caused a short between the bare jumpers on the bottom of the Peco Insulfrog turn-outs on the new wye while it was still wet. 6 hours later, once the Liquid Nails fully cured- there was no short. I've been using Liquid Nails to secure track for years, but this was the first time I'd ever turned on the system within a few minutes of laying new track.

So while wet, Liquid Nails truly lives up to its name! We live and we learn, and we continue building layouts anyway.

If you were there, you know what it was all about, if you weren't there – sorry.

Carol Merkel, Non-rail Chairperson

Railfanning the

Text and photos by Riley Triggs

Carol says it all - you can't really know what happened at the *Bluebonnet Limited* unless you were there, but I thought I'd share my experience accompanied by some images I captured from the convention.

It takes a couple of years of planning and execution to present a convention of this size, and Jack Merkel was a great herder of a dozen or so cats of the committee. It was a lot of work, but it was also great fun along the way, and a really nice sense of accomplishment in the end.

If you didn't make it this year, I hope to see you next year, and here is a taste of what you missed.

Setting up the registration folders morning of.

The Bluebonnet Limited has left the station and traveled into the sunset!

Thanks to all the LSR members that came to Round Rock for the convention. I hope you had a great time. And thanks to the committee members that worked very hard for two years to make the convention a reality.

We had three excellent prototype tours, a ride on the Wimberley, Blanco and Southern RR, 10 operating sessions, 37 layout tours, 64 clinics, several operating layouts at the convention site, a large contest room filled with excellent models and a huge silent auction. If that was not enough, we had the Bluebonnet Pickers performing during the social hour and a very entertaining banquet speaker. And then we gave away over $4000 in door prizes and raffle prizes.

The non-rail program was equally busy with two shopping tours, a museum tour and 4 clinics.

As my wife Carol said "If you were there, you know what it was all about, if you weren't there – sorry."

Thank you for attending and hope to see you at the Beaumont convention in 2015.

Jack Merkel, MMR
2014 LSR Regional Convention Chairman

You can't leave the station without knowing where you are going or when you need to be there.

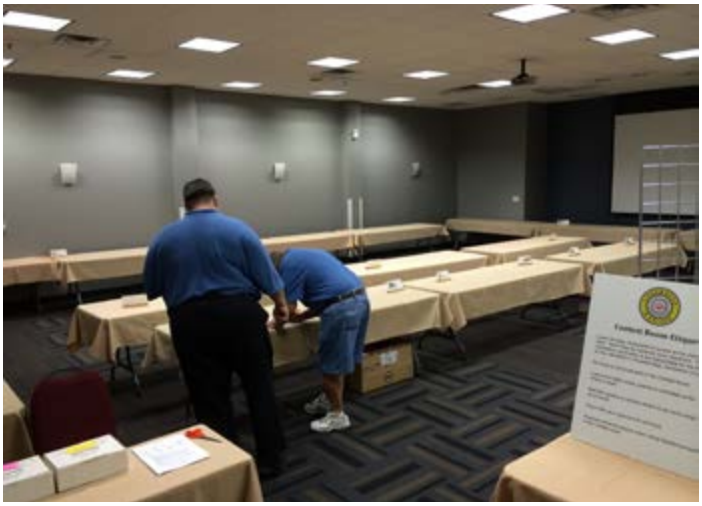
Reffle set up. $4000 in prizes this year thanks to George Zapalac and Larry Swigert and crew.

The NMRA overlooks registration lobby.

The registration area was busy the entire weekend, and Edmar, Phil, Cindy and Tom await the onslaught on the first morning.

The AustiNTrak crew setting up modules in the display room.

Heave.

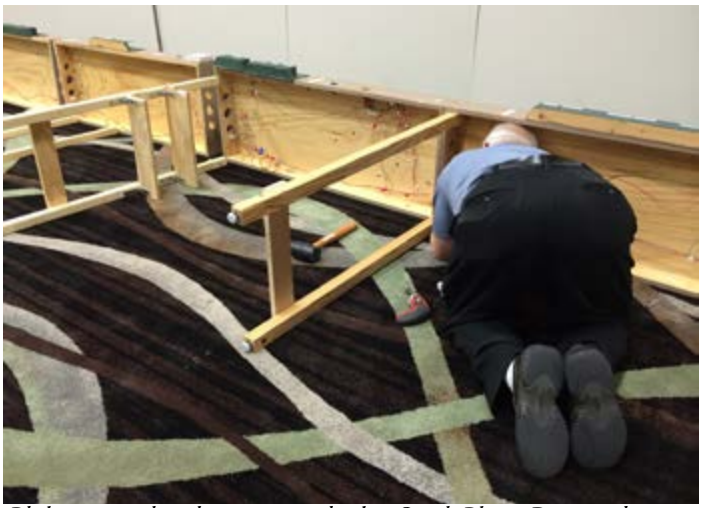


Contest room preparations.

Phil is ready to get everyone on the bus.

Susan and Cindy check and recheck to make sure all is in order.

Brian Helms mans the silent auction room.

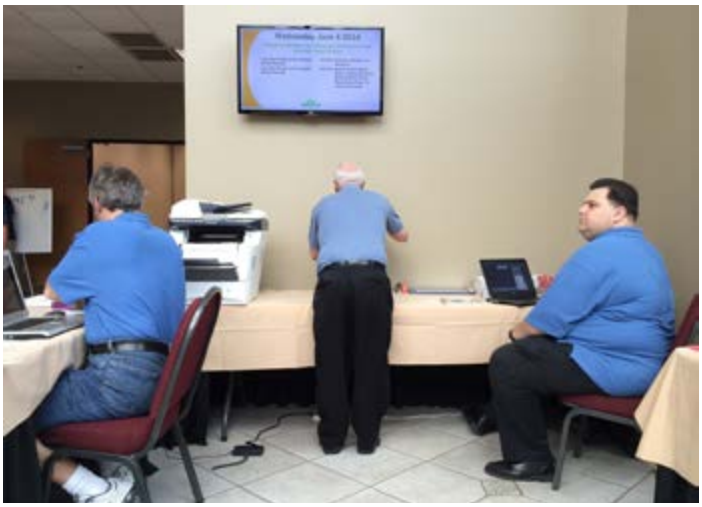


Phil puts together the operating display, South Plains Division by David Barrow which was sold at the silent auction.

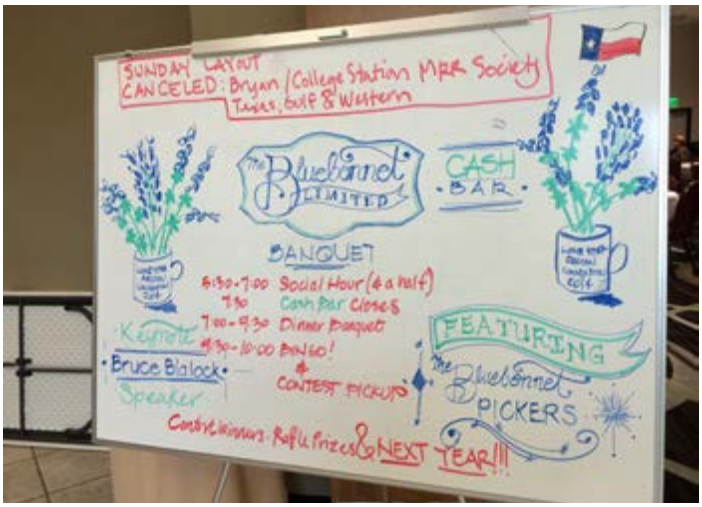
No. 24, your order is ready.

Signs are key - in all their forms.

Sharing is what the convention is all about.



Edmar, Phil and Peter and another sign.



In addition to Twitter and Facebook, there were continuous updates on the welcome board.

Awaiting the fateful trip to the Umlauf sculpture garden via the outlet malls in Waxahatchie. (Ask Carol about it.)

Sometimes it just feels good to sit. Rod and Tom take a break after lunch.

There were a lot of great clinics. I bounced back and forth every day (and night) to catch as much as I could. Mike Barrett talks trestles.

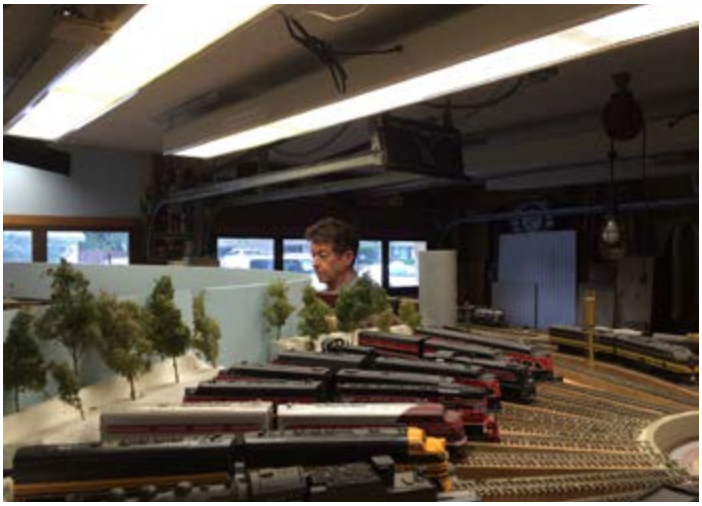
Close up of Mike's examples.

Terry Nathan makes a case for modular modeling.

Terry demonstrates module construction.

Steve Barkley, MMR shares his strategy for attacking the achievement program to get your own Master Model Railroader certificate.

The travelling history display is full of interesting facts and people from the LSR past.



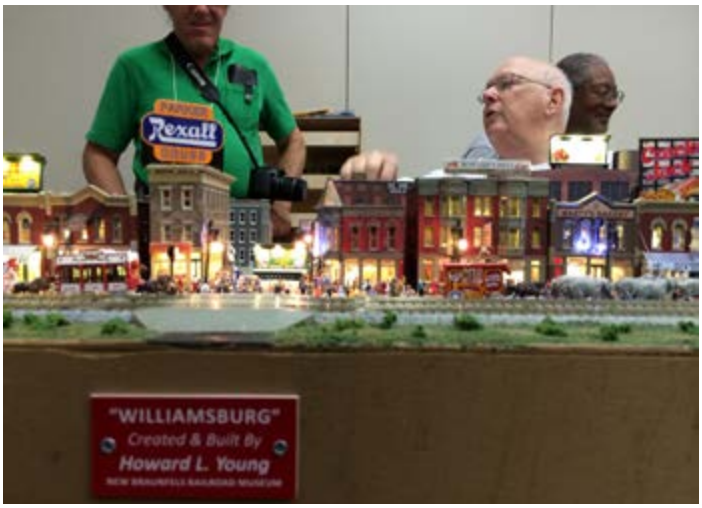
Operations on the Rock Island layout of Tom Pearson.

Bill McCall keeps the session running.

Steve volunteered for yard work - no lawn mowers needed.

David steps up to way freight duty.

T-Trak module with tons of detail.



Bright lights, little city.

Mind the yard goats at Nick Edward's Wimberley, Blanco and Southern live steam railroad.

I think Gilbert is explaining why he forgot his hat.

Bob Hornsby, engineer extraordinaire, checks for the all-clear from his conductor before leaving the station.

Smooth riding Pullmans.

Entering the roundhouse pit to blow down the locomotive at the end of the day.

The blow down is quite a display of sight and sound. This helps keep the locomotive clean and healthy.

Peter explains to his son how important proper gauge is for a complex crossing.

Say, "Steam trains."

Stowaway or boss?

Safety is always job one. (Plus it sounds cool.)

David showing his son milling equipment in the workshop.

Lots of younger modelers attended, and there is room for a lot more!

A tremendous variety of rolling stock rolls by.

Waiting in Wimberley.

Station sign.

Even the bus driver had fun.

Table 23 at the banquet.

The keynote speaker, Bruce Blalock, takes a picture of the crowd.

George and helper dishing out the raffle prizes.

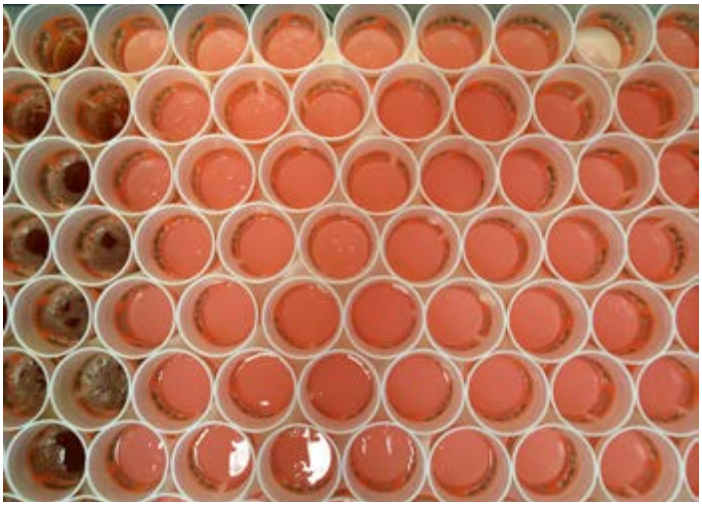
A standing ovation for the big prize winner.

Bill and Steve talk trains - what else?

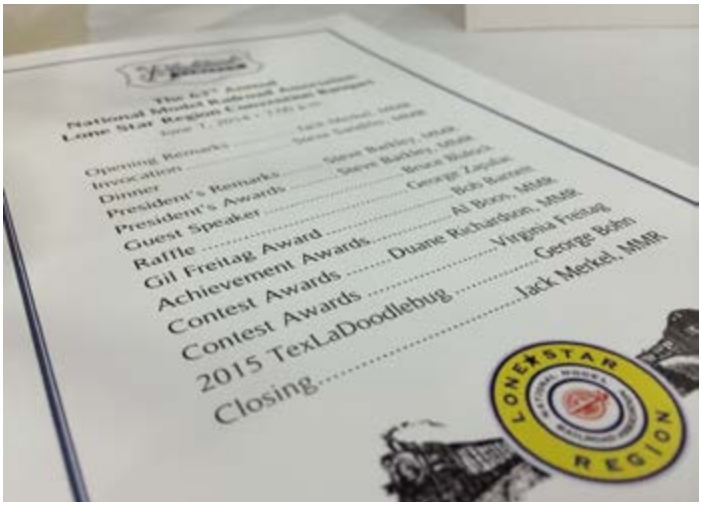
Steve Barkley offers some president's comments.

Anxiously awaiting the announcement of the big raffle prize.

Cheers!



Bug juice and a little iced tea.



Can't wait until next year!

What makes a convention great?

The people!

See you all next year in Beaumont!

Division 3 Achievement Program Award Winners and Show and Tell

Text and photos unless otherwise noted by Gert "Speed" Muller

Full house

Jeff Palmer - Structures

May

The May meeting was at the North Garland Branch Library and once again we almost did not have enough chairs!

Division 3 presented AP Awards to:

Roy Stockard received his National Award for CHIEF DISPATCHER, presented by Jerry Hoverson.

Jeff Palmer proudly received his National Award for MASTER BUILDER - STRUCTURES, presented by Jerry Hoverson.

And Speed (Gert Muller) received his very first National Award for CHIEF DISPATCHER, also presented by Jerry Hoverson. (I thought this one would take the longest to get, and submitted it before really starting on the next!)

Speed Muller - Chief Dispatcher (Photo by Donna Orr)

Show and Tell

Alan was back with more Lego Trains.

Carlos with a small (but detailed and battery lit) module

Alan showed his Lego Train

Roy Stockard - Chief Dispatcher

Carlos - Battery module

Joseph built a barn from childhood memories.

Don showed us his super light weight modules. You could not help but ask, next destination Space Station?

Brady McGuire give a short clinic on how to operate your layout on car cards. He brought an example of everything you might need and invited anyone new to operations or interested to his layout later in the week to even experience it themselves.

And a young Mr. Richardson could not say no to the Duds!

Joseph - Barn side

Carlos module

Don - Lightwieght module

Joseph - Barn

Brady McGuire - Car card operation

Joseph - Barn inside

Dud deal

More dud deals

June

The June meeting was back at the South Garland Branch Library, and we put even more chairs out this time. The Show and Tell tables were filled with models and crafts winning prizes at the Convention, which will surely be posted in another article in this edition.

Everyone also loves the Milk Duds, so much that it got traded rather quickly after the award was made by the younger ones in the back!

Recognizing Walter Zahn:

Tom Browning wrote:

Five years ago Walter John Zahn donated $1,000.00 to the Lone Star Region to honor his father Walter Zahn (no middle name). The stipulation was that the donation would be used at a rate of $200.00 per year for five years. The Lone Star Region chose to use those funds to offset the cost of paying for some of the expenses of the regional contest.

Walter's father began model railroading in the 1930's when young Walter was a small boy. That early introduction to model railroading eventually resulted in a very fine and detailed N-scale layout today with a collection of over a thousand pieces of rolling stock.

At the Trinity River Division's June 2014 meeting, Duane Richardson, former LSR Contest Chair, presented Walter with the plaque that has been displayed in every regional contest for the past five years.

We members of the Lone Star Region are grateful to Walter for his very generous donation. The next time you see Walter give a big "THANK YOU" - Tom

AP Awards:

Jerry Hoverson presented to Brian Lingle his National Awards for CHIEF DISPATCHER and ASSOCIATION VOLUNTEER.

Gert Muller received his Regional award for AUTHOR, photo next month!

Show and Tell

As mentioned above, was filled with winning contest room projects!

Walter Zahn with plaque

Brian received both his Dispatch and Volunteer awards

The Garland Depot

Speed Muller (Photo by Roy Stockard)

July

The July Division 3 meeting was held at Central Library in Garland Branch. To most of us, a surprise to see the 1901 built Santa Fe depot between the library and the railroad tracks. Quite interesting to read that "wandering livestock" almost caused the loss of the depot, in the same year it was built, by a derailing steam locomotive that hit a yearling on the track. (http://www.garlandhistorical.org/historical-overview/santa-fe-depot) The depot was relocated for the second time and had its ribbon cutting the last weekend in May this year. It joined a 1910 Pullman railcar in the new Heritage Crossing pedestrian corridor.

Jerry Hoverson presented to Gert Muller his 2nd National AP Award, this time for AUTHOR.

Larry always rambles down the fine print on the back of your Deal or Dudd ticket: "what happens when you draw your own ticket from the hat....well...hmmm...let's see...oh, you still get to win a prize", but he never expected it to ever happen, so everyone else was just as surprised when Lee drew his own number, first time ever!

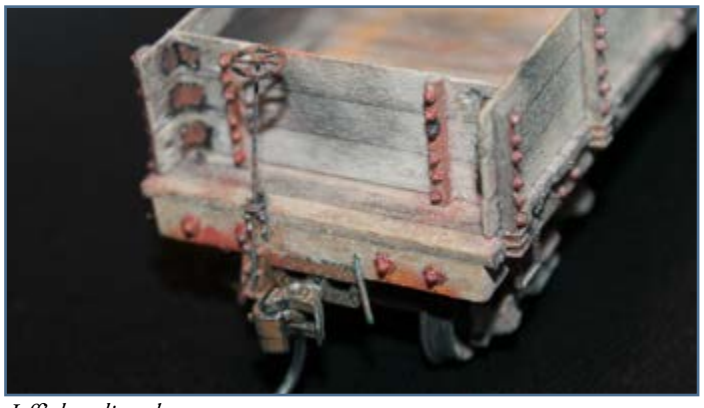
Don - Lightwieght module

Jeff Palmer brought 8 cars!

Show and Tell

Jeff Palmer brought 8, yes 8, cars to take care of the Car building certificate in one sitting. Here he is explaining that some cars are simply better when you can buy them in a "box of two"!

Remember the very, very detailed 1912 Horsedrawn Popcorn Wagon? We found the owner, but are still investigating the story behind the wagon, so watch this space!


Jeff's handiwork

Minutes of the June 8, 2014 LSR Board Meeting

Submitted by Jeff Palmer, Secretary

Minutes of the Lone Star Region Board Meeting
Round Rock, Texas – June 8, 2014

President Steve Barkley called the Annual Board meeting to order at 9:00 AM.

Roll call

All of the officers, directors and committee chairpersons were present except:

Voting Board Members:
Art Houston, Director-At-Large (Proxy – Rod Fredericks)
Chris Atkins, Division 1 Director (Proxy – Jeff Palmer)
Jerry Hoverson, Division 3 Director (Proxy – Duane Richardson)Leslie Bodak, Division 8 Director (Proxy – Don Kimmell) Tom Crosthwait, Division 6 Director, Tracy Mitchell

Non-voting Board Members:
Larry Swigert
Mike Mackey
Bill Dryden
Matthew Latham

Guests

Gil Freitag
Ron Burns
George Bohn – 2015 Convention Chair

Minutes of Previous Meeting

Division 2 Director Rod Fredericks provided a motion and Division 7 Director Don Kimmel seconded to dispense with the reading of the minutes and approve as published the Minutes of the June 2, 2013 Annual Board of Directors meeting published in the 2013 summer issue of The Marker Lamp. The motion designated as 2014-06-08 LSR Motion 1 passed.

Officers Reports

President Steve Barkley
The President's Report was submitted by email to all Board members and is summarized as follows:

The Lone Star Region (LSR) has had continued success since the 2013 convention These are just some of the achievements that LSR has accomplished:
1. Planning for the 2014 Convention was extremely well done, thanks to Jack Merkel and his crew. Jack Merkel earned his MMR. This is perhaps the first LSR convention where the Convention Chair is presented with his MMR at the convention.
a. Al Boos, MMR, the Achievement Chairman, is retiring after many, many years of successful service. Duane Richardson, MMR, the current Contest Chairman, has been appointed as Achievement Chair.
b. Chuck Lind, MMR, and Loren Neufeld will co-chair as Contest Chairmen.
2. The Marker Lamp continues to improve.
3. The LSR is solvent.
4. The Youth Program is alive and well. More young people, both men and women are discovering the joy of model railroading.
5. Mike Bodak resigned as secretary due to work conflicts. Jeff Palmer volunteered to serve as secretary. His appointment was ratified by the LSR Board.
6. Model railroading is still fun!

Secretary Jeff Palmer
In April the position of LSR Secretary was transferred from Mike Bodak to Jeff Palmer. Since that time, the LSR By-Laws have been updated to reflect the motion made and approved at the Mid-Year BOD meeting to allow "Raffle" funds to remain with the hosting Division. A call for new business items for the Annual BOD meeting has gone out and a tentative agenda has been presented.

Treasurer Donna Orr
The Secretary/Treasurer's Report, was submitted by email to the Board members and is summarized as follows:

The fiscal year report for 2013-2014 beginning balance as of 05/01/2013 was 34311.42 and the ending balance on April 30, 2014, was 36,899.35. These balances exclude the restricted funds held for Division 4.

The annual audit was conducted on June 8, 2014, by Donna Orr. The audit committee consisted of Mike Mackey, and John Garfield. The audit was completed and the books were found to be in good order and correct.

Directors Reports

Division 1 Director Chris Atkins reported:

Since the January board meeting we have once again started having regular division meetings: one in March and one in May.

At the March meeting Clearance Zink presented a clinic titled " I presented a clinic titled "Ores if a Different Color." The topic was about a turn of the 19th century underground salt mine and it's impressive headframe/breaker building in Louisiana and sulphur production during World War II in Texas. I also showed off the layout plan I presented at the Layout Design and Operations Special Interest Group in Tulsa.

In May Denny Bullard gave a clinic that he called "Rail Movement of Oilfield Materials." Both meetings were held at the Texas Western's new home in Forrest Hills, which gave all the attendees a chance to see their new space and study their plans.

We made plans to go back to the Texas Western in July and have been invited tothe former LMRA club, which is now the Cowtown Model Railroad Club. They are building new layout at the Handley Community Center in Ft. Worth.

The Cowcatcher Division continues to be part of the North Texas Council of Railroad clubs by doing our part to put on the two train shows and I am very busy with my new roll as President of the Council. We invited Division 3 to join the council this year, which they did. I look forward to the increased representation of the LSR and NMRA in the Council.

Division 2 Director Rod Fredericks reported:

There continues to be a lot of model railroading in the Bayou Division, as evident from the numerous operating events at both clubs and home layouts. Also, for the first time in my experience, events were held in the Bayou District in observance with National Model Railroad month. Working with the Mid-South Model RR Club (Baton Rouge), the Greater Baton Rouge Model RR Club, and the Crescent City Model RR Club, coordinated open houses, operating sessions and layout tours were held. These events were numerous, and well received and attended. As a result, we hope to expand on this program in the fall.

There is however, the still nagging problem of getting local members to think beyond the local area, as is evident in how few Bayou Division members have registered for this year's LSR convention. Moreover, there appears to be little interest to have division shows, general meetings or workshops, etc. that would help spread the word of our great hobby to new people. Nevertheless, I remain encouraged by the success of last November's events and plan to expand the program with a few workshops and displays.

As I stated last year, Art Houston and I have given careful consideration to hosting a LSR convention in Baton Rouge. We have made a number of visits to local hotels to discuss costs and inspect their suitability as a host facility. We have also talked with the other clubs in the area to solicit their support and willingness to volunteer. The response has been encouraging, but I still have reservations that we could marshal the necessary person power and financial recourses to pull it off.

I will continue to pursue the efforts listed above and would welcome any suggestions.

Division 3 Director Jerry Hoverson did not file a report.

Division 4 Director Jack Merkel reported:

We had four Division Meetings since the report at the 2013 annual meeting –September, November, February and May. Our meetings consist of a clinic, show and tell, DCC minute, social time, deal or duds, and a layout tour. We also have poster boards describing the benefits of NMRA membership, the AP program, and a beginner's corner. We post meeting flyers at our local hobby shop. About 30 people attend each meeting.

We had a NMRA/LSR booth at two train shows – Temple and Round Rock. Our booth has a banner, a poster board describing the benefits of NMRA membership, past issues of NMRA and Marker Lamp magazines and member signup sheets. We signed up 5 new members last fall at these shows plus 2 new members at our Division Meetings and another new member for the convention.

Division 5 Director Dave Lamberts reported:

B.J. D'Orsay had what I thought was a great idea for a club activity. We have been having "mini" modeling contests every few months.

The first one was rolling stock, then structures, and last week, billboards. I think the next one is going to bridges.

The contest becomes the activity or clinic for that night. The models are judged by popular vote and the first and second place winners receive a small financial reward.

This has proved to be quite popular. It is an effort to get the membership to actual model and hopefully suppress apathy.

Division 6 Tom Crosthwait did not file a report.

Division 7 Director Don Kimmell reported:

Membership has held fairly steady, from a low of 26 members to a high of 33 members. I have visited with a number of "non-NMRA" model railroaders throughout Northern Louisiana over the past couple of months concerning joining the NMRA. So far it is with poor results.

The local, East Texas, train show have been very gracious in providing me a free table to recruit, again a lot of interest, but poor results. I am concerned that we may be losing our local show due to the usual factors: cost of space rental, attendance drops, gas prices, etc. Only time will tell.

One of the bright spots in the Division continues to be Alexandria. The folks at the T.R.E.E. House continue to hold their Junior Engineer Camps a couple of times a year, next is scheduled August 5th thru 8th. The Rockwell Railroad engineers have had a great time doing this, and auction off the completed layout to raise money for their continuing projects.

I continue to work with a couple of Boy Scout Troops on their Railroading Merit Badge. The most interest seems to be in the eastern portion of Louisiana, with smaller towns showing the most interest. I again, with the co-operation of the KCS, took a Monroe troop thru the Monroe yards, and the Delhi troop thru the Vicksburg facilities, we were even allowed to "hike" across the Mississippi River Bridge!

I have tentatively planned a DCC workshop in August at the Ark-La-Tex Clubs facilities.

Division 8 Director Leslie Bodak did not file a report.

Department Reports

Achievement Chair Al Boos reported:

Expenses for the full fiscal year 2 June 2013 to 8 June 2014 are $227.41. Resent receipts were submitted to the secretary and presented to the Treasurer at the annual meeting on 8 June 2014.

The LSR processed thirty-four certificates and two Golden Spike Awards for the full year. There was one MMR earned.

Certificates/Awards for the year:

MMR 512
Jack Merkel

Official
JackMerkel
Stan Pirzchalski

Electrical
Stan Pirzchalski
Don Winn

Volunteer
Brian Lingle
Mike Mackey
Stan Pirzchalski
Roy Stockard
Don Winn
Jeff Palmer
Donna Orr
David Cummings
Mark LaChey

Scenery
Stan Pirzchalski
Mike Mackey
Jeffery Nicholds
Stephen Sandifer
Tom Browning, MMR

Civil
Stan Pirzchalski
Don Winn

Author
Gert Muller
Mike Mackey
Jeff Palmer
Jerry Wilson
Roy Stockard

Dispatcher
Mike Mackey
Robert Barnett
Gert Muller
Brian Lingle
Roy Stockard

Structures
Jeff Palmer
Jack Merkel
Stan Pirzchalski
Tom Browning, MMR
Jeffery Nichols

Cars
Jack Merkel

Golden Spike
Mike Mackey
Stan Pirzchalski

Convention Chair Report
Convention Chair Bill McPherson provided an update of his LSR Convention Attendance, Income, Expenses and Profit/Loss Comparisons Report which shows the final results of the 2013 Dallas-Fort Worth convention and extensive details for the previous conventions back to 2001.

Since the annual LSR conventions now provide almost 2/3 of the total LSR income, an explanatory document was also distributed which pointed out the significant factors that determine a convention's outcome. Examples in this document showed the extreme importance of effective control of the banquet and breakfast meal costs; the infamous hotel "service or gratuity" charges which can be an additional 18% to 33% in costs; the miscellaneous expenses, and achieving the required number of room nights.

Dispatcher Matthew Latham reported:

All cars sold out.

Other items available

Cloth Region Patches $5.00 each (Only LSR Life – 35 avail.)
Auto/Window Region Decal $ .50 (1 avail.)

N Scale (13 avail.) Nevadun Decals $2.00 per sheet
HO Scale (8 avail.) & N Scale (22 avail.) Daw Cha Southern Decals $3.00 per sheet

Shipping
Please add $1.00 for patches and decals

Nominating Chair Blake Bogs reported:

The following people were elected to the following positions
Directors - At - Large:
Art Houston
Chuck Lind
Duane Richardson
Division 2: Rod Fredericks
Division 4: Peter Kazmir
Division 6: Kevin Bergeman
Division 8: Leslie Bodak
Only 11.5% of our total membership voted. Please encourage your members to vote.

Next election will include the President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Division 1,3,5,7 Directors. Note: If you do not plan on running for re-election please let me know so I can start searching for candidates. I would like at least two candidates for each open position.

Publications Chair Riley Triggs reported:

Report of year's activities

I began duties as Marker Lamp editor and publications chair in earnest on or about 1 January of last year and have established a very smooth production process. I continue to have great support from chairs and directors, and I have started to attract other contributors. I put out a call for associate editors, and I have received interest from two people, Gert "Speed" Muller and Bob Batson. They are beginning their work with the Summer 2014 issue. To date, I have completed an entire volume of the digital-only Marker Lamp. There has continued to be good support for the format, and I do not see any reason not to continue to publish only in the digital format. I have not incurred any expenses this year.

Areas to address

Advertising in Pike and Dealer ads needs attention. There has been some interest in upgrading ads to color, but no new pike nor dealers are participating. There has been no effort to acquire new ads this year, but this could be addressed in this next year.

Future plans updates

1. A goal for starting the design process this coming year is to conduct surveys and informal and/or formal interviews as well as to solicit email feedback and suggestions for improving ML. A first step is to be able to define the priorities, desires and constraints of the publication so that further decisions and actions can better serve the membership. Surveys will be conducted online and interviews in person.

Update: Only informal inquiries have been accomplished so far. There have been no particular suggestions or concerns so far, and formal surveys may not be necessary. The only exception may be to understand device usage for possible mobile device formatting.

2. Beginning this year, I also want to work closely with the web site team and any interested parties on developing a more robust and comprehensive communication approach in general, as well as focus on strategies for delivering a Marker Lamp that is of the first class among regional NMRA newsletter/magazine publications. To accomplish this, a general survey of existing publications has been started to inform decisions and actions during the design process.

Update: I have not participated in these discussions. Now that the new web page is established, it would be a good time to explore this as time and interest allow.

3. I also wish to take a look at the mechanics of voting in the region. I understand at this point that ballots must be physical, but it seems a more efficient publication of these materials can be accomplished. Understanding that this is a change in the by-laws, this may not happen quickly, but I wish to assist in the process of rethinking a more straightforward balloting process.

Update: There are several systems that make Internet voting possible. This is a project that should be easy to implement.

Long term projects update

1. While updating and improving the Marker Lamp is the first task and main priority, I will begin to explore the possibilities for other longer range projects for publications. Initial ideas are in the realm of an historical narrative of the region's activities, profiles of the region's modelers and layouts, compilations of clinics and presentations at LSR conventions, etc. Projects may also include expanded media to include video, etc. that can take full advantage of digital delivery methods. Ideas, support and labor for these projects will also be solicited from the membership.

Update: No progress has been made in this area.

Website Chair Jeff Palmer reported:

Development for the new LSR Website began in July of 2013 and went live on March 1, 2014. The migration was transparent to the user community, unless you happened to try to access the website on 2/28/2014 when the migration was done; the website was down. A copy of the old LSR website is available at www.lonestarregion.org. The development site, www.geekwithtrains.com was decommissioned and then brought back as the development site for electronic elections.

The motion to have the "Convention Guide" made available on the website has not been done. The information has not been made available for publication.

Other activities performed include aiding the 2014 Convention committee with email blasts.

Parliamentarian Bob Mangrum reported that there nothing to report.

Youth Chair Bob Mangrum reported that there were no youth nominations.

Events Chair, Bill Dryden reported:
Not a whole lot to report. I have successfully survived a change in editors. Columns have been submitted, though I do need to work on understanding the term "deadline" – from both personally as well as with several contributors to the page.

Photography Chair Dave Lamberts did not file a report.

Education Chair, Tracy Mitchell did not file a report.

OLD BUSINESS

Steve Barkley reported on the membership status.

Donna Orr reported that the Convention Fund level is $10,002.54 as of April 1, 2014. Rod Fredericks provided a motion and seconded by Duane Richardson to leave the Convention Fund at its current level. The motion designated as 2014-06-08 LSR Motion 2 passed.

Jack Merkel reported that the Bluebonnet Limited was a success. He did not have the final accounting numbers at this time, but they will be made available as soon as they are available. It was pointed out that the silent auction database runs on Microsoft Access and that it is no longer free with Microsoft Office.

Bill McPherson reported that to refer uniformly throughout the By-Laws to the organization which puts on a convention as the "Host Group" instead of a variety of names such as host division, local group, etc.; (2) On contracts and agreements, always refer to the LSR organization as the "Lone Star Region-NMRA" for consistency and legal purposes; (3) Provide that the financial obligations established by the LSR By-Laws, which are the $2,000 Advance Expenses Loan (seed money); the $2.00 per capita fee, and the 5% of the gross auction proceeds, are paid in full to the LSR before any distributions of profits derived from the LSR Annual Convention are made; (4) The Host Group shall retain 100% of any convention raffle revenue except in the event of a financial loss; (5) Insert NMRA required language relative to conformance with NMRA standards in merchandise contracts; (6) If a LSR Annual Convention has a monetary loss, all incomes regardless of their sources are included for settling any financial obligations of the Host Group and monetary distributions between the LSR and Host Group; and (7) Clarify due-dates for By-Laws payments and submission of the LSR Convention Report. It was pointed out that Article V of the LSR By-Laws needs to be updated to better protect the LSR. Motion 2014-06-08 LSR Motion 12 to correct the By-Laws was made by Jeff Palmer and seconded by Rod Fredericks and was passed.

Donna Orr reported on the status of Regions quest for 501 (c)(3) status. The paper work is filled out and ready to go.

Jeff Palmer reported on the status of the LSR Website and the ability to have an "Officer-Only" option appear on the menu line. This option is based on logon. You must be an LSR officer or chair person to access the option.

Jeff Palmer reported on the status of the Election Committee findings. He pointed that at present, the LSR constitution only allows elections to be conducted by postal mail and that an LSR Constitution changes are needed in Articles IV, V, and VII. This lead to a discussion of Article II requirements for the 501 (c)(3). Donna Orr pointed out the IRS changes need to Article II of the LSR Constitution. The motion designated as 2014-06-08 LSR Motion 9 was modified to hold a special election. The motion was made by Jeff Palmer and seconded by Rod Fredericks and was passed.

NEW BUSINESS
Steve Barkley recognized and welcomed the new members of the LSR Board of Directors:
Re-elected:
Rod Fredericks - Division 2 Director
Leslie Bodak - Division 8 Director
Elected:
Peter Kazmir - Division 4 Director
Kevin Bergeman - Division 6 Director

Rod Fredericks provided a motion and seconded by Duane Richardson to recognize the newly elected division directors. The motion designated as 2014-06-08 LSR Motion 3 passed.

Donna Orr provided a budget report, in that conversation, a line item for Youth Expenses was added. Don Kimmell provided a motion and seconded by Duane Richardson to approve the budget as submitted. The motion designated as 2014-06-08 LSR Motion 4 passed.

Don Kimmell provided a motion and seconded by Duane Richardson to destroy the ballots of the last election. The motion designated as 2014-06-08 LSR Motion 5 passed.

Jeff Palmer reported earlier on the status of the Election Committee findings. At this time, the discussion turned to electronic balloting. It was point out that the LSR Constitution only allows elections to be conducted by postal mail. After much discussion Steve Barkley called for a special committee of Jeff Palmer, Donna Orr, and Blake Bogs to put together the needed changes to the LSR Constitution and conduct a special election. Steve Barkley asked for a motion to declare an emergency election for the LSR Constitution changes needed to move forward on the 501 (c)(3) and electronic election. The motion, 2014-06-08 LSR BOD Motion 7, was made by Rod Fredericks and seconded by Bob Barnett. The motion passed.

Steve Barkley provided introduced the motion 2014-06-08 LSR Motion 8 to allow him to write a letter for the 501 (c)(3) presentation to the IRS. The motion was made by Rod Fredericks and seconded by Chuck Lind. The motion was passed.

Jeff Palmer introduced the motion 2014-06-08 LSR Motion 10 to allow the Membership Chair to receive from the NMRA the membership roles. This motion was defeated and the membership roles go to the LSR Secretary for distribution.

Jeff Palmer introduced the motion 2014-06-08 LSR Motion 11 to add the Events Chair, Parliamentarian Chair, and Non-Rail Chair and associated duties to be added to the LSR By-Laws. The motion was tabled to allow each of those chairs to define their duties. Motion was made by Duane Richardson, and seconded by Rod Fredericks. The motion to table was passed. This motion will appear again at the mid-year meeting fleshed out.

Chuck Lind introduced the motion 2014-06-08 LSR Motion 13, the Bob Clarke Award, to be transferred from SAMRA to the LSR, along with the $570.00 designated to support the award. This motion was made by Chuck Lind and seconded by Rod Fredericks. The motion passed.

Duane Richardson provided a motion and seconded by Rod Fredericks to adjourn the meeting. The motion designated as 2014-06-08 LSR Motion 14 passed. The meeting was adjourned at 11:54 AM June 8, 2014.

Contest rule changes

The LSR Board approved several changes to the contest rules and are shown here so you can start planning for next year's convention. Changes are in RED.

Arts and Craft Contest Rules
Lone Star Region
Of the National Model Railroad Association

A. General Rules

1. The Arts and Craft Contest is open to anyone who is registered at an LSR Region Convention.

2. Each entry must be accompanied by the official LSR (Board approved) entry form signed by the entrant along with the LSR or NMRA Arts and Craft Judging form.

3. Entries by proxy is *not* allowed.

4. There will be no restriction on the number of articles entered by a single entrant, nor shall any entry fee be charged.

5. Articles will be displayed to permit the maximum inspection (based on space available). If you have a large entry (taking up ten (10) square feet or more) please check with the Region Contest Chairman to make sure appropriate space will be available.

6. Items that have won First (1st) place at previous Regional or National NMRA contest are ineligible.

7. The claim check from the LSR entry form must be presented to obtain the article after the contest.

8. Reasonable care and protection will be provided for entries by the Host Committee and the Judges.

9. Neither the LSR or the Host Convention Committee can assume any responsibility in the event of loss or damage to an article beyond the insurance carried by the NMRA and then no more than the dollar value that is shown on the LSR Entry form.

10. No entries will be accepted after 3PM on Friday (unless otherwise posted). This will allow the Region Contest Chairman and the Host Convention Committee time to ready the room for judging.

11. The contest room will remain closed to viewing after 4PM Friday (unless otherwise posted) and while judging is in progress. The room will reopen Saturday during normal convention hours for viewing.

12. For the protection of the entries, no bags, purses, camera bags, or drinks will be allowed in the model/photo display area. You are welcome to take photos for your personal use.

Revised 6-2014

Entry No. _____

LSR Arts & Crafts Contest
Judges Score Sheet

Entry Description: _____

Category (check one) ___ **General** ___ **Needlework** ___ **Railroadiana** ___ **Theme**

Describe your entry in detail. Add other information you feel necessary.

1. Construction and Materials (Maximum of 50 points) **Points Awarded** _____
Describe in detail how your entry was made. Note any special materials used.

_____

_____

_____

2. Difficulty/Complexity (Maximum of 30 points) **Points Awarded** _____

Kit _____(10 points Maximum)
Pattern _____(20 points Maximum)
Original _____ (30 points Maximum)
Describe the complexity of the entry. Note any special techniques required or used. If Pattern or Kit, were any changes made? Was the project adapted from one medium to another?

_____

_____

3. Finishing Maximum of 25 points) **Points Awarded** _____
Describe how the item was prepared for display/use (type of materials, matting, etc.)

_____

_____

_____

4. Neatness (Maximum 20 points) **Points Awarded** _____

_____

_____

Judges Comments: _____ **Final Score** _____

_____
Revised 6-2014

Value of Entry _____ Entry No. _____

LSR Contest
Entry Form

Name: _____ NMRA No.: _____ LSR No.: _____
Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____
__

Category: (Please check the appropriate box)

Arts and Crafts

☐ Railroadiana
☐ General
☐ Needlework
☐ Theme
☐ Exhibit Only (space available)

Model

Motive Power
☐ Steam Locomotive
☐ Diesel Engines
☐ Traction or Other Motive Power

Rolling Stock
☐ Passenger Cars
☐ Freight Cars
☐ Maintenance of Way
☐ Caboose

Other
☐ Complete Train (Popular vote only)
☐ Structures, Off-Line
☐ Structures, On-Line
☐ Bridges & Trestles
☐ Displays/Modules
☐ Exhibit Only

Novice
See instruction #8
☐ Yes ☐ No

Kit-Built
See instruction #9
☐ Yes ☐ No

Photography

Prototype
☐ Black & White Print
☐ Color Print

Model
☐ Black & White Print
☐ Color Print

Computer Enhanced
☐ Prototype or Model

Instructions:

1. This **Contest Entry Form** and the appropriate **Judges' Score Sheet** must be completed for each Entry. Exception: any item entered for Exhibit Only.
2. Entries which have previously placed First in any LSR (Region Level) or NMRA (National Level) contest are not eligible for this contest.
3. If you need assistance or interpretation of any of the categories, please contact the contest chairman
4. Be sure to declare a value for your Entry in the space at the top of this page, for insurance purposes.
5. Describe your Entry in the space provided on the **Judges' Score Sheet**. You may include information on design, construction methods, finish, materials used, photo setup and printing, background research, or any other information that would aid the judges. You may want to point out unique features or describe special techniques used in creating your Entry.
6. Supplementary information, including plans, photos and other supporting documentation may be submitted. This should be organized in order by judging factor (Construction, Detail, Conformity, Finish & Lettering and Scratchbuilt). However, judges are under no obligation to review this material, and the Contest Chairman may limit this information.
7. **Photo Contest Only:** You may submit up to ten (10) entries with a maximum of five (5) entries in one category.
8. **Model & Arts and Crafts Contest Only:** In the box above, indicate if you are a novice; i.e., you have never placed First or Second, with a score of 87.5 points or more, at any LSR (Region Level) or NMRA (National Level) contest.
9. **Model Contest Only:** In the box above, indicate if your Entry is a kit, even if it may be significantly "kitbashed."
10. Complete the attached claim check, which must be presented to reclaim your entry after the contest.
11. I hereby certify that this Entry is of my own workmanship, and that I am a member in good standing of the NMRA and my home region.
12. DO YOU DERIVE 51% OR MORE OF YOUR INCOME FROM MODELBUILDING, MANUFACTURING OR PHOTOGRAPHY? ☐ YES ☐ NO

Signature _____

LSR Contest Claim Check

I hereby certify that Entry No. _____ has been returned to me is satisfactory condition.

Date _____ Signature _____

Revised 6-2014

Model Contest Rules
Lone Start Region
Of the National Model Railroad Association

A. General Contest Rules

1. Any member of the NMRA, in good standing, is eligible to compete except Manufacturers and Professional Model Builders. Any commercially built (built by a Professional Model Builder) model is not eligible to be entered.
   a. Manufacturer – Derives the majority (51% or more) of his income from producing detail parts, gearing, drives or kits for the Model Railroad consumers.
   b. Professional Model Builder – Any member who derives the majority (51% or more) of his or her income from model building.

2. Each entry must be accompanied by the official LSR (Board approved) entry form signed by the entrant along with the LSR (preferred) or NMRA Contest Judging form. Each entry by proxy must be authenticated by the owner/builder with a valid NMRA/LSR membership number.

3. There will be no restrictions on the number of models (doesn't include photos, see photo rules) entered by a single entrant, nor shall any entry fee be charged.

4. Unmodified, ready-to-run models are ineligible for the model contest.

5. Models will be displayed to permit the maximum inspection (based on space available), with the minimum amount of handling necessary by the judges.

6. Models that have won First (1st) place with a score of 87.5 or higher at previous Regional or National NMRA contests are ineligible.

7. Models requiring more than ten (10) square feet and/or weighing more than one hundred (100) pounds are at the discretion of the Region Contest Chairman if it will be allowed to be entered, based on available space. Please check before bringing the model.

8. The claim check from the LSR entry form must be presented to obtain the model after the contest.

9. All scales will be combined in the various categories. There will be no division of category based on the scale of the model.

10. Reasonable care and protection will be provided for entries by the Host Contest Committee, the LSR Contest Chairman and the Judges.

11. Neither the LSR nor the Host Convention Committee can assume any responsibility in the event of loss or damage to a Model beyond the insurance carried by the NMRA and then no more than the dollar value that is shown on the LSR Entry form.

12. Judges for the model contest and photo contest will be selected by the Region Contest Chairman with the help of the Host Convention Chairman if necessary.

Revised 6-2014

LSR Model Contest Judging Form

Entry Name _____ **Entry No.** _____

1. CONSTRUCTION (Maximum 40 points) (*May qualify for AP scratch built) Points Awarded

Model Basis – Select the description that best applies to your model

- ☐ Scratch Built (Complete) *– SB struc. + details (>90%)
- ☐ Scratch Built (Partial) – SB struc.; comm. details (<90%)
- ☐ Mod. Comm. – Shells, frame, struc. or major parts (>50%)
- ☐ Kit Bash – Multi kits/ comm. parts assem. not per kit plan
- ☐ Kit Built – Per kit plan (> 90%); few modifications
- ☐ Mod. RTR – Some mod. (<20%) to finished comm. model

Name kit or major comm. parts & manufacturer _____

Construction Techniques – Select all methods & materials that apply to your model

☐ Drew own plans	☐ Followed construc. article	☐ Cut & fit wood	☐ Soldered metal
☐ Used proto/comm. plans	☐ Cut & fit metal	☐ Cut & fit cardstock	☐ Made patterns
☐ Used kit plans	☐ Cut & fit plastic	☐ Cut & fit glass	☐ Made molds

Describe in detail how model was built, its complexity and the methods used. _____

2. DETAIL (Maximum 20 points) Points Awarded

Describe complexity, difficulty, refinement & quantity of detail parts added. Identify all commercial parts.

3. CONFORMITY (Maximum 25 points) Points Awarded

Describe prototype design. Include prototype documentation (beyond what may have been supplied in kit).

4. FINISH & LETTERING (Maximum 25 points) Points Awarded

☐ Weathered ☐ Hand Lettered ☐ Decals ☐ Dry Transfers ☐ Spray ☐ Airbrush ☐ Dry brush ☐ Stain

☐ Non-Weathered - Describe methods & materials _____

4. SCRATCH BUILT (Maximum 15 points) - ☐ Kit Built Classification Points Awarded

List all parts scratch built; note special refinements _____

4. TOTAL POINTS (Staff only) - **Final Score**

Tabulated by _____ Verified by _____

Photo Contest Rules
Lone Start Region
Of the National Model Railroad Association

A. General Contest Rules

1. Any member of the NMRA, in good standing, is eligible to compete except Professional Photographers. A Professional Photographer is any member that derives the majority (51% or more) of his income from photography.

2. Each entry must be accompanied by the official LSR (Board approved) entry form signed by the entrant along with the LSR (preferred) or NMRA Photo Judging form. Each entry by proxy must be authenticated with a valid NMRA membership number.

3. The entrant may submit up to ten (10) entries with a maximum of five (5) entries in one category. No entry fee shall be charged.

4. Prints **must be mounted** on flat, rigid board or matted with a similar material. No folders or frames or glass allowed. Photo and mount may not exceed 13” x 16” in size. Minimum mount size is 8” x 10” and a minimum print size is 5” x 7”.

5. Photos will be displayed to permit maximum inspection based on space available.

6. Photos that have won First (1st) place at previous Regional or National NMRA contest are ineligible.

7. Prints **must have entrant’s name or entry number on back of the mount.** The title of the photo may be on the front, but no photo will be accepted with the entrant’s name on the front.

8. Exposure of the original and any adjustments or modifications of the image by Photoshop or any other means must have been made by the entrant.

9. The claim check from the LSR entry form must be presented to obtain the photo after the contest.

10. Reasonable care and protection will be provided for entries by the Host Contest Committee, the LSR Contest Chairman and the Judges.

11. Neither the LSR or the Host Convention Committee can assume any responsibility in the event of loss or damage to a Photo beyond the insurance carried by the NMRA and then no more than the dollar value that is shown on the LSR Entry form.

12. Judges for the photo contest will be selected by the Region Contest Chairman with the help of the Host Convention Chairman if necessary.

13. No entries will be accepted after 3PM on Friday (unless otherwise posted). This will allow the Region Contest Chairman and the Host Convention Committee time to ready the room for judging.

Revised 6-2014

Entry No. _____

LSR Photo Contest
Judges Score Sheet

Title of Photograph _____

1. Subject Matter The impact of the subject matter on the viewer.

Describe anything special _____

_____

_____

2. Difficulty Model subjects are more difficult than prototype because it is hard to make them look like "the real thing." Where planning is obvious in the photo, consideration should be given to the effort expended.

Describe anything Special _____

_____

_____

3. Composition The arrangement of forms within the picture to be pleasing to the eye. Is the picture level? Are the elements balanced?

Why you composed the photo like this _____

_____

_____

4. Artistic Approach The use of depth of field, lighting, camera placement, etc. for artistic effect.

How you took the photo _____

_____

_____

5. Finishing Was the print processed/printed by the contestant, is it properly exposed and finished with regard to spotting, streaking, or creasing? Properly mounted?

How it was printed and mounted _____

_____

_____

Place _____

Judges Comments:_____

_____

Revised 6-2014

MORE CONTEST AWARDS AT 2015 LSR Convention

Get started on your contest entries for the 2015 Arts & Crafts Contest.

Additional categories will be added:

Novice

For those who have not received a 1st, 2nd or 3rd place or a score of 87 ½ or better at an LSR or NMRA Convention

Youth

Teen 13-17 yrs of age
Youth 12 yrs of age or under

The theme will be "Doodlebugs" see convention info for details

Don't forget Arts and Crafts Contest entrants get their name in for a special drawing at the banquet.

ANNOUNCING!!!

THE TRIUMPHANT RETURN OF *THE*

SQUARE FOOT CONTEST

The 2015 SQUARE FOOT Contest

For 2015, the LSR Model Contest will be bringing back one of the most popular Special Contests of the past few years – the Square Foot contest. If you're not familiar with it, here's the deal: Build anything you want in any scale you want… as long as it fits on a 12 inch x 12 inch display. It doesn't matter what it is: on-line or off-line; structure, bridge or whatever – the sky's the limit. Actually, the sky literally is the limit; you can go as tall as you want, just don't let it get outside that square foot!

Your Square Foot entry will be judged in the Display contest category and will be eligible for all the traditional awards up to and including Best in Show. And the entry earning the highest score will receive a plaque as Square Foot Contest winner!

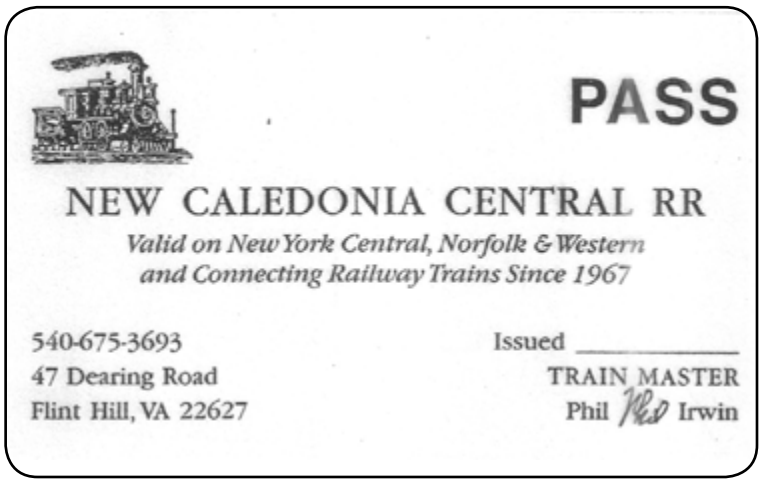
But wait, there's more! If you choose to feature an outhouse in your entry it'll also be eligible for the Square Foot contest at the National Narrow Gauge Convention to be held in Houston, September 2-5, 2015. All the same rules apply as for the LSR's version, except that the primary subject is to be an outhouse.

So put on your brainstorming cap, let your imagination go and start thinking INside the box! This contest'll be fun!

If you have any questions, contact the LSR Contest co-chairs:

Chuck Lind
979-219-3305
chucklind46@gmail.com

Loren Neufeld
713-962-4035
lorenmr@aol.com



This quarter's pass is raised black printing on quality card stock from the *New Caledonia Central RR* operated by Phil Irwin. Reach him by mail at 47 Dearing Road, Flint Hill, VA 22627.

Pass Exchange

Headed by Walter Zahn

The Pass Exchange Program is yet another fun way to connect to other model railroaders through printed ephemera you have created. Railroad passes were distributed by railroads to their employees, associates and partners as well as employees of other railroads for courtesy travel on their system. Many modelers recreate this tradition by printing and distributing passes for their own railways as a way to extend and share their modeling efforts.

Here's how it works

Walter Zahn continues to spearhead the Pass Exchange Program for the LSR. To participate in the program, send Walter two of your passes, and in return you will receive a pass and a list of active pass exchangers. Walter will review the passes he receives and share one in each issue of *ML*.

Send passes and any questions or inquiries to:

Walter Zahn
3309 Point East Drive
Mesquite, Texas 75150-2645

New Head of Achievement program

by Duane Richardson, MMR

Dad (Paul) and I would like to say thanks to Al for all he has done for the LSR, the Achievement Program and both of us. You are the reason we both made MMR.

For those of you I haven't met yet, let me introduce myself. My name is Duane Richardson, MMR and I have been the LSR's Contest Room Chairman for the last 6 years. I am handing that job back over to my predecessors, Chuck Lind, MMR and Loren Neufeld, MMR. While I've had a great time running the Contest Room and teaching new judges I am looking forward to being back in the room as a modeler. The reason for this note is not to announce my resignation from the Contest Room but to let each of you know I am your new Achievement Program Chairman.

Al Boos, my mentor, has decided that after 16+ years it was time to pass the torch. Al was a great help to me while I was working on my Master Model Railroader certificate. He was always available to answer any questions I had, and boy did I have them.

When I first spoke to Al about the Achievement Program he told me that, "It WILL make you a better modeler" and he was so right. It's amazing how fast "that will do" goes out the window. You find that you want to learn new ways of doing things and learning new skills. There are things in our hobby that I used to be intimidated by but after working through the process to get that certificate I found that it wasn't so hard after all. There are things that I have even come to really enjoy doing 'the hard way' like hand laying track or scratchbuilding cars and structures. I still have Motive Power to earn and scratchbuilding a locomotive looks to be serious challenge but it's one I'm looking forward to.

I will also point out that if you really want to jump into the AP and learn a lot, then contact Chuck and Loren and let them know you would like to become a judge in the Contest Room. Besides being a lot of fun it's a huge learning experience. I'd be willing to say that I have learned as much or maybe more judging than I have by simply going to clinics. You get to see the best of the best show off their work and read how they did it. You get to work with experienced judges who can help explain some of the techniques that might be new to you as well as what to look for while judging. Those lessons are things you take home and apply to your next modeling projects.

Al told me early on that all I had to do was call, and he would walk me through whatever I was doing. I make that same promise to all of you. If there is anything I can do to answer any questions to help you along your road to MMR just let me know. My contact information is here in the Marker Lamp and on our website listed with the various officers. My cell phone is always on and I'd be happy to help you. You can reach me at 972-824-6630 or at duane@purgatoryanddevilriver.com.

Director Reports

Cowcatcher Division 1

by Chris Atkins
chris@railroadermodelers.com
214.222.1285
cowcatcherdivision.com

Hi all,

Hope you are taking time this summer to work on your layouts. As I write this, I have finally moved to Argyle and the 1895 T&P section house that drew me to the property is slowly being cleaned out to make room for a new layout.

Immediately after moving into the new house, I headed to Yakima Washington for the annual Northern Pacific Historical Association's convention. It was a whirlwind trip up and back but I saw a lot of railroads coming and going including coal train traffic in the Powder River basin and a busy parade of stack trains on the Transcon through Abo Canyon.

We have continued to have meetings every two months in Ft. Worth. The last meeting was at the Texas Western club house and Stan Pirzchalski presented videos he produced of his layout and the manufacture of craftsman kits.

We also had a presentation by Jim Muller on selecting a 3D printer for modeling. Jim brought several n-scale well cars that he drew in CAD software and printed.

The next meeting will be Saturday September 20th at the Cowtown Model Railroad club's, formerly LMRA, new clubhouse. Stay tuned to your email for more details.

Hope to see you all there,

Chris

Here is a photo of the rear end of a military train headed to Ft. Hood on the BNSF Transcon west of Encino, New Mexico

Bayou Division 2

by Rod Fredericks
fredericks.rod@gmail.com
225-939-0187

Unlike our northern brethren who retreat to their basements in the dead of winter to do their model railroading, for me at least, and a number of my local model railroading associates, summer is our modeling season. With the full force of another July summer in south Louisiana the AC's are up on full and it's out (no basements here) to the layout room or club do some modeling.

Despite the heat however,activities in District 2 have been brisk over the past three months. The Mid-South Model Railroad club has already hosted three of their bi-monthly Saturday operating sessions with the next one coming up on August 2nd. Sessions were also run on Art Houston's layout in Houma, the Crescent City Model Railroad Club in the New Orleans area, and Lake Area Model Railroaders (LAMRR) layout in Lake Charles, LA.

Tom Kelly and I visited these "train guys" a few weeks ago, and what a fine Railroad they have, and location. Their railroad is named the Sweet Lake and Gulf Railroad (SL&G) and is on the second floor of the Children's Museum of Lake Charles. Two of the walls are transparent Lexan where visitors can look right in and view the trains whenever the museum is open. There's even a button outside the wall where visitors can run a train when the members aren't there. Phillip Leger was our host, and Tom and I spent the better part of the day being visiting with the guys and being shown the numerous sights and sounds. For more information and layout pictures, visit the museum website (http://www.swlakids.org). Phillip then took us to his home and we spent more time visiting his excellent layout. He is an excellent model railroader, and really excels at building bridges. What a great day we had!

And speaking of great times, what a fantastic LSR convention we had in Round Rock, TX, the *Bluebonnet Limited* as it was called. A tip of my hat to Jack "What, Me Worry?" Merkel and all of the guys on the convention committee for organizing and putting on such a fine program. The tours were great, both in number and substance, numerous excellent home layouts were open for visits and operations, the clinics covered a broad spectrum of modeling and prototype subjects, and were given by very knowledgeable presenters. Participation in the model contest was up this year as well, with the quality of the entries just as fine as ever. I can't wait for next year's convention in Beaumont , TX. That's' as close as it's been to Division 2 in some time and I encourage you to consider it in your planning for next July.

So that's all for now. Happy Model Railroading.

North East Texas Division 3

by Jerry Hoverson, MMR
jhoverson@tx.rr.com
972.540.5315

Hey everyone, hope all is well. It's been a hectic couple of months with my move from McKinney to Melissa and tearing down the old layout. You know it took 1½ dump trucks to haul off all the wood and plaster debris when all was said and done. The room was re-sheetrocked and turned into a big "bonus room". We found the home of our dreams and it sits on 1.2 acres with a separate building for the trains.

Right now we're busy completing the Crew Lounge & Dispatcher's Office but the layout footprint has been drawn and a short 8' section of bench work put up.

Anyway, enough about me, the division has been going strong and I want to thank all those that chipped in and helped or will be helping out in the months to come with creating clinics and helping out at the meetings while I don't have the facilities available to do it. THANKS to everyone we haven't skipped a beat at our meetings.

One more pat on the back for the division members. It's now been 40 meetings in a row that at least one award has been presented. It may have been a national or maybe a regional but you guys are doing great work on progressing in the achievement program!

Well, before I go, I'd like to apologize for not having pictures to accompany this article but with the move and now some construction going on the dead line for this quarter's MarkerLamp snuck up on me and I didn't have time to coordinate.

Keep rolling down the tracks, and we'll see you next time!

CenTex Division 4

by Peter Kazmir
pakazmir@gmail.com

CenTexNMRA.org

This is my first report as CenTex Division Director, and before I mention anything else I need to thank our outgoing Director, Jack Merkel. Not only a top-notch convention chairman, he has been instrumental in driving this Division forward these past four years. Thank you, Jack! I'll do my best to keep it going!

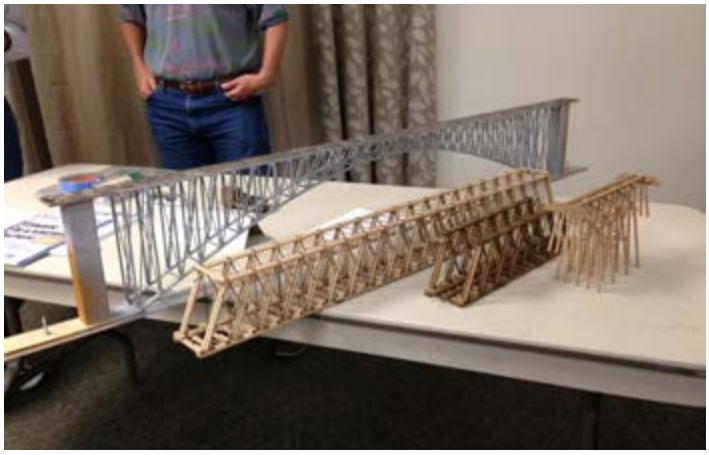
Our last division meeting was on May 10 at the Round Rock Library. David and Sam Nicastro presented a clinic entitled "17 Ways NOT to Make Custom Decals and One That Works Pretty Well." It was a very entertaining and

Sam Nicastro's decaling project

informative recounting of their experiences figuring out how to successfully make white decals. Sam brought some examples that looked pretty good! We also had our DCC Minute with Tom Pearson, our Show and Tell table, social time, and Deal or Duds. After the meeting we toured Tom Foreman's Brushy Creek & Santa Fe RR.

David Barrow, Chuck Ellis, Pete Guy, Jack Merkel, David Nicastro, Tom Pearson, Kim Saign, and Edmar Wienskoski have all hosted operating sessions during the past few months as well. Of course, the highlight of the last few

Jack Merkel's show and tell scratchbuilt car



Mike Barrett's bridge show and tell

months in our Division was the 2014 LSR Convention, the *Bluebonnet Limited*. We had a great time hosting the convention, and we hope you all had a great time as well. We will be getting the photos from the convention published on the web site by the time you read this.

Our next division meeting will be on September 13 at 10:00 am at the Round Rock Library. Terry Nathan will be giving a clinic on Modular Layout Design. We will have our DCC Minute with Tom Pearson, our Show and Tell Table, social time, and Deal or Duds as usual. After the meeting we will be touing Chuck Ellis's Great Northwestern & Pacific Railroad with its fabulous mountain scenery, bridges, structures, and over 10,000 trees!

The library is located at 216 E. Main St. in Round Rock. On I-35, exit at RR 620 (Exit 252B) and proceed East on RR 620 for a few blocks to the intersection with Main St. and continue East on Main St. for another block and half to the library on the left.

Also coming up this fall are the Temple Model Train Show at the Frank Mayborn Convention Center in Temple September 20 & 21 and the Austin Railroad Jamboree at the First United Methodist Church in Round Rock October 25.

Model Railroading IS fun!

Division 5

by Dave Lamberts
DavidWL1944@aol.com
806.792.7244

Dave couldn't file a report this issue.

Division 6

by Kevin Bergeman
kevin.bergeman@gmail.com
(210)488-4370

Well I'm finally getting settled it to the Division Director position after my installation at the Board Meeting in Round Rock. When I ran for this position, one of my goals was to try and reestablish regular Division activities. By the time this is published, every member of the South Texas Division should have received and email or letter surveying their preferences for what they want out of a Division Meet.

Until I start getting activity reports from around the Division I'll only be able to tell you what I know from personal experience.

So here goes on recent railroady events:

San Antonio held a very successful National Train Day at the AMTRAK Station on May 10th, the San Antonio Railroad Heritage Museum (SARHM) did a bang-up job of organizing it again. Local clubs/organizations that participated included the New Braunfels Historic Railroad and Modelers Society (NBHRMS), the San Antonio N-Track Association (SANTRAK), and the Texas LEGO Users Group San Antonio (TexLUG SA).

By the time this is published the San Antonio Model Railroad Association's (SAMRA) 12th Annual Summer Family Train Show should have had its successfully run at the Carmack Event Center. Hopefully, it went well.
SANTRAK held an Open House at their Landmark 35 Drive on May 17th; I personally think it went well.
SANTRAK also held 2 public clinics/workshops; Easy Evergeeens on May 24th and Introduction to XTrackCAD on June 28th.

Now for upcoming events (if you'd like to see yours' here next issue just let me know):

The Alamo Model Railroad Engineers' (AMRE) 2014 Train Show will be held October 4th & 5th at Freeman Coliseum. See their website for details (www.txtransportationmuseum.org).

The Texas Transportation Museum (TTM) will host their annual Halloween SpookTrackUla on Saturday October 18th & 25th.

November 15th & 16th will see the Sixth Annual Fall Train Show at the New Braunfels Civic Center, see the NBHRMS web site for details (www.newbraunfelsrailroadmuseum.org).
SANTRAK has scheduled a clinic/workshop on
August 23rd, Deciduous Tree Building
September 27th, Scratchbuilding Loads for Open Cars
October 25th, TBD

Although it's not really South Texas news, I did recently hear that the owners of the San Antonio HobbyTown, USA are opening a second store way over in Houston (a bit far for me, but I wish them the best of luck).

Division 7

by Don Kimmell
elf4kcs@mac.com
318.798.7718

Hello again from sweltering North Louisiana…a great time to be modeling…inside!

If you did not make it to Round Rock this past June, you missed another great convention. Jack Merkel and his crew of minions put on a wonderful convention. There was something for everyone to see and do, unless you wanted to use the cocktail lounge…no bartender! But fun was had by all. A great after dinner speaker too!

The tours were very interesting; to see how they maintain the coal gondolas was really something, modern technology at work. The folks at LCRA really gave a great tour, and did a couple truck changes while we were there… like 5 feet away from the action! That would be an interesting modern on-line business to model! And the quantity and quality of layouts was unbelievable!

And lets not forget the clinics; I must say the Chuck and Loren Show was packed…standing room only! Also keep you eye out for the NMRA EduTRAIN program that is coming, it really sounds great!

As is usual during the "hot season", there are not too many events going on in this area. In fact, a couple of members and their spouses are or have been to Alaska to ride the train and get out of the heat! Sounds like fun.

Well, that is about it from Shreveport, so stay cool and play trains!

Texas Gulf Division 8

by Leslie Bodak
lbjbodak@gmail.com
281.486.0709

For the past several months, the hectic schedule of my personal and family life has taken me away from model railroading. This means that I have had no time to devote to my current duties as Director. I am trying to get involved with model railroading again!

I am working to get several clinics going for the fall. I have one location identified and am hoping to identify other areas around the Houston area. Updates to follow.

The Big Texas Train Show is back and will be held September 6-7, at the George R. Brown Convention Center in downtown Houston. Show hours are 10 – 5 pm on Saturday and 10 – 4 pm on Sunday. Division 8 will have a table, so stop by and say hello.

The Galveston Railroad Museum will be having their train show on October 4-5 in Galveston. The museum has some great exhibits, especially an incredible HO layout that is new this year.

Division 8 will have their annual meeting in October as well. There will be more information on this later.

Division 8 is now on Facebook. Like us at Lone Star Region – Division 8

Chair Reports

Nominations
by Blake Bogs
superchief15@yahoo.com
(713)254-7447

While sitting at the 2013 LSR convention in Dallas, the George Jones song "Who's going to fill their shoes" popped in my head. This made me think, what will happen to the LSR in 10 or 20 years? As many of you know, the average age of a modeler is a person in their 60's. There are fewer modelers going into the hobby now, than there were 20-30 years ago. You could ask, why is our membership going down and the average age of members constantly going up. My personal opinion is that trains cost money.

Video games cost money too, but you only have to buy a game one time. With trains, multiple components have to be purchased to have a working layout. A brand new locomotive now costs over $100.00. It's becoming harder and harder for young people to afford these locomotives. I constantly feel like I'm the youngest person in the hobby. Although this isn't true, it's becoming increasingly difficult to find a young person in their teens spending their time in model railroading. Several divisions are lucky enough to have youth modelers involved in their youth division, but that is not always the case.

The next question that popped up in my head is what can we do about this? One answer that pops up in my head is we need volunteers. In the past, I've told you the pros to volunteering and running for office. We need help to keep this organization running. Our elections the past couple of years have been comprised of one candidate for each position.

My goal as your Nomination Chair is to make every election have at least two candidates for each position. But to do this, I need people to nominate themselves to run for election. And if you do run and lose in the election, help the new Director or President with their job. An example of a person stepping up to volunteer is Jeff Palmer.

Since Mike Bodak had to work two jobs, he was forced to resign his position. Jeff Palmer, the LSR Web Chair, volunteered to take over the position. Even though Jeff was already volunteering, Jeff stepped in and took over.

I hope you will consider running for a position in the next election. This year's election is for President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Division 1 Director, Division 3 Director, Division 5 Director, and Division 7 Director.

If you have any questions, please email me at superchief15@yahoo.com or call me at 713-254-7447. If I'm available, I will be happy to answer. But if not, leave me a message and I will get back to you as soon as I can.

Thanks again.

Youth Program
by Bob Mangrum, MMR
rmangrum6@hotmail.com
(325) 643-1219

The Youth Membership Program is an excellent way for the members of the LSR to bring new and young members into the NMRA and to become involved in what is truly the "world's greatest hobby.

This is the stated objective of the Youth Membership Program as found in Article VI of the LSR bylaws. The program is designed to sponsor up to nine young people with one year memberships in the NMRA. The total number is determined as one nominee for each division and one nominated by the elected officers and directors at large.

These nominees can originate from nominations by individuals who are members of the various divisions, clubs that are located within the divisions, and/or the division director. The proper form and a short sketch explaining why the candidate should be considered, including comments about the young person's interests and activities in model railroading comprise the application. Please refer to the bylaws for more details. If you have questions, please contact me by e-mail at: rmangrum6@hotmail.com Looking forward to announcing more awards for 2015!

(The Last) Company Store Report

By Matthew Latham, Dispatcher Chair

The last of the decals have been sold. I will be mailing Donna Orr a check for $116.50.

The only items I have left are 35 Lone Star Region Life Member cloth patches. As the NMRA no longer offers the Life membership, I would like to ask the Board of Directors of the Lone Star Region for permission to distribute the remaining 35 Life cloth patches among the Life Members currently in the LSR Region.

Riley Triggs will no longer have the Company Store in future *Marker Lamp* issues and Jeff Palmer can remove The Company Store from the LSR Web site. And remove my name as the Scale Car Dispatcher from the Marker Lamp and LSR Website as the position is no longer needed.

Thank you.

Treasurer
by Donna Orr
dlo-rls@sbcglobal.net
(972)342-8598

Financial Report

For the First Fiscal Quarter of 2014/2015

Beginning Balance 05/01/2014		
LSR Checking Account		$4,528.03
Vanguard CD Fund		
$20,356.86		
Vanguard Convention Fund		
$10,004.46		
Acct receivable for 2014 Convention		$2000.00
Total LSR Net Worth		$36,889.35
Not included in Total LSR Net Worth		
Funds Held For Division 4		$3,246.94
LSR Proceeds		
Vanguard CD Fund Interest		$ .51
Vanguard Convention Fund Interest		$ .24
Pike Ads		$ 96.00
Convention Advance return		$2,000.00
Convention proceeds		$ 280.00
Total Proceeds		$2,376.75
LSR Disbursements		
BOD meeting copying		$11.14
Sec Expenses/Postage		$54.10
Achievement Program Postage/Copying		$30.54
Contest Expenses		$1,185.69
Memorial Donation		$47.00
Total Disbursements		$1,328.47
Net Proceeds / Disbursements		$1,048.28
Ending Balances 07/30/2014		
LSR Checking Accounts Total		$5,575.56
Vanguard CD Fund		$20,357.37
Vanguard Convention Fund		$10,004.70
Total LSR Net Worth		$35,937.63
Not included in Total LSR Net Worth		
Funds Held For Division 4	$3,246.94	
Funds for the Bob Clarke Award	$ 570.00	

Membership Report

At the Beginning of May 2014, the membership was 1073 and at the end of July 2014 the membership was 1044. Please welcome our new members listed below:

Division 1
Larry Rasberry, Burleson,TX
Vicki Price, Grapevine, TX
Mark Morris, N Richland Hills, TX
James Hartgraves, Hurst,TX
David Hall, Arlington, TX

Division 3
Joseph Sorensen, Dallas, TX
Smith Southwest Model Railroad, Dallas, TX

Division 4
Arlen Young, Buda, TX
John Hanne, Lakeway, TX
Pat Hanne, Lakeway, TX
Joanne Belsley, Manchaca, TX
John Ames, Austin, TX
Harry Petheram, Leander, TX
Lois Hammelman, Georgetown, TX
Dan Fischer, Gause, TX
Gerald Burgess, Cedar Park, TX

Division 6
Vincent Clemmings, Converse, TX

Division 8
Robert Fawcett, Pearland, TX
Mike Boehnke, Houston, TX
Family Boehnke, Houston, TX
Jeffrey Mills, Rosenberg, TX

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We meet Thursdays 7 to 10PM, and the 2nd and 4th Saturdays of the month (10 AM to 4 PM). Business meeting, 1st Thursday of the month. Memberships open. From I-40, take the Lakeside exit (#75). Go north on Lakeside 2.2 miles to U. S. Highway 60. Turn right, go east 3.9 miles east, Turn right on I Ave., look for the yellow building with a red roof. P. O. Box 31105, Amarillo, TX 79120 (806) 335-3333. www.amarilloralmusuem.com

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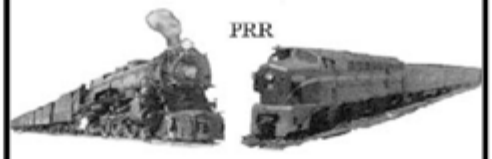

Jerry Schoenberg
Carrollton, Texas (972) 242-9053
arrjerry@aol.com

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Next Issue
November 2014

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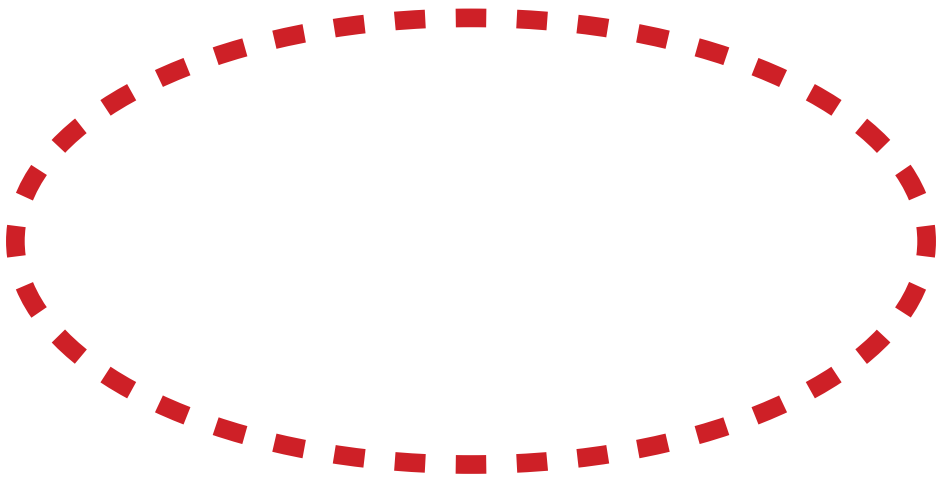

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Deadline for submissions is OCTOBER 15

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